

Montana House Natural Resources
Honorable Jerry Bennett, Chairman
63rd Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 3-23-13
HB SB 265

March 22, 2013

RE: Senate Bill 265; Extend the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
Sponsor: Verdell Jackson

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Good afternoon. My name is Shane Morigeau, and I am here on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The Tribes oppose SB 265 and its proposition to extend the compact commission as there has been an agreement reached between the Tribes, the State and the Federal Government. This agreement has been over a decade in the making.

The agreement that was reached was the result of efforts that date back to 1979, when the Compact Commission was first established. That was 34 years ago. Since then, the legislature extended the life of the Compact Commission six times. These extensions were granted out of sheer necessity, because negotiations were not completed for all the compacts that the commission was set out to negotiate. After years of hard work and years of tough compromises, the commission has negotiated all compacts, including the CSKT compact. For that reason alone, the extension of the compact commission is unnecessary.

The CSKT want to point out that that this is not just the "CSKT's compact", this is "everyone's compact" and we believe it is a compact that benefits all of western Montana. It is a good compact; it is a fair compact; it has been an openly discussed and negotiated compact; and CSKT are ready to move on. The CSKT respectfully urge you to acknowledge the hard work that has been done to negotiate the CSKT compact. Negotiations have been made and the CSKT have made our concessions. We have a final agreement and there is no reason to extend the compact commission. Because of these reasons we urge this committee to vote NO on this bill. Thank you.

Shane Morigeau
CSKT Lobbyist